

State of Utah

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Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan

Salt Lake County, Utah – In March 2000, The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL) signed a decision document approving the Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan (GSL CMP). This plan has played an integral part in deciding the activities and research that currently occur on the lake. The ten-year anniversary of the GSL CMP is steadily approaching which means the time has come for resource managers and the public to review and make revisions to the Comprehensive Management Plan.

Subsequently, on August 13, 2009, the Division signed a decision document that places a withdrawal of all sovereign lands within the bed of Great Salt Lake from leasing and permitting until the completion of the review and/or revision of the Comprehensive Management Plan. The withdrawal means that the Division will accept no new applications for surface or mineral uses on the Great Salt Lake.

"The Division has determined that it would be in the best interest of the public trust and future of Great Salt Lake to take this action," said Dick Buehler, Director of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands.

"This will insure that future development and use of the lake is not burdened by activities that may be authorized without benefit of a comprehensive study."

The Division is currently working on getting out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit a competitive selection process for a contracting organization to take on this monumental and essential task.

The Great Salt Lake is located within Box Elder, Weber, Davis, Salt Lake and Tooele counties. The lake is a terminal basin and home to hundreds of thousand of waterfowl in adjacent wetlands. It is the largest contiguous area managed by the state of Utah, approximately 1.35 million acres. Sovereign lands here are part of a hyper saline lake rich in mineral resources.

A copy of the 2000 Great Salt Lake Comprehensive Management Plan and Decision Document can be found on the Division's website at http://www.ffsl.utah.gov/sovlands/gsl.php